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An Analysis of Two Counting Methods Used For
Estimates During The First Hour For
Chinook and Sockeye Escapements
Through The Chignik Weir, 1992

By

David L. Owen

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
LIST OF TABLES	i
LIST OF FIGURES	ii
LIST OF APPENDICES	iii
INTRODUCTION	1
METHODS	1
RESULTS	1
CONCLUSION	2
APPENDIX	19

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Sockeye salmon escapement counts (n=38) by sample date at gates 1 and 2, recorded at 5 minute intervals, during the 7:00 - 8:00 am period, Chignik River weir, 1992	3
2. Chinook salmon escapement counts (n=13) by sample date at gates 1 and 2, recorded at 5 minute intervals, during the 7:00 - 8:00 am period, Chignik River weir, 1992	4
3. Total sockeye and chinook salmon escapement counts at gates 1 and 2, recorded at 5 minute intervals, during the 7:00 - 8:00 am period where n=38 for sockeye and n=13 for chinook, Chignik River weir, 1992	5
4. Comparison of results using different expansion methods for sockeye salmon at Chignik River weir, 1992	6
5. Comparison of results using different expansion methods for chinook salmon at the Chignik River weir, 1992	7
6. Comparison of two methods that estimate actual counts of sockeye salmon within the first hour from counting samples, and expansion of the error associated with each method from the sample to the entire season	8
7. Actual counts for chinook salmon at the gate sampled and total escapement for both gates within the first hour	10
8. Comparison of two methods that estimate actual counts of chinook and sockeye salmon within the first hour from counting samples, and expansion of the error associated with each method from the sample to the entire season	11
9. Comparison of the differences from actual and percent error for two escapement estimates for the entire season for chinook and sockeye salmon, 1992	12

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Percentage of actual escapement per time interval for chinook and sockeye salmon counted at the Chignik River weir, 1992	13
2. Percentage of the total daily sockeye salmon escapement counted in the first hour through the Chignik River weir, 1992	14
3. Percentage of the total daily chinook salmon escapement counted in the first hour through the Chignik River weir, 1992	15
4. Comparison of the percent error associated with two methods of estimating sockeye salmon escapement (7:00 - 8:00 am) at the Chignik River weir, 1992	16
5. Comparison of the average percent error for each estimation method grouped by number of sockeye salmon at the Chignik River weir, 1992	17
6. Comparison of the percent error associated with two methods of estimating chinook salmon escapement (7:00 - 8:00 am) at the Chignik River weir, 1992	18

LIST OF APPENDIX

<u>Appendix</u>	<u>Page</u>
A.1. Timed sockeye salmon counts by gate and estimated total escapement by hour and gate, Chignik River weir, 1992	20

INTRODUCTION

A study was conducted at the Chignik River weir during the 1992 salmon season to evaluate the accuracy of two counting and expansion methods that estimate the sockeye and chinook salmon escapement during the first opening hour (7:00 - 8:00 am). In previous years, total hourly counts were estimated daily from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm (gates close at 10:00 pm) using the same methodology: counts were taken at 10 minute intervals beginning on the hour, at two gates, and expanded to the hour. However, a study conducted during the first hour in 1991, with only five data points, suggested that actual sockeye numbers were 50% less than the estimated numbers. Other counts throughout the day were assumed to have little, if any, bias.

METHODS

The study compared two counting and estimating methods for the first hour counts. The method used in previous years (old method), expanded 10 minute counts at two gates by a factor of six at the beginning of the hour (Gate 1: 7:00-7:10 am, Gate 2: 7:10-7:20 am) to estimate total counts for the first hour. The second method, used this year (new method), tallied actual counts for the first 20 minutes (7:00 - 7:20 am) and for 10 minutes at the half-hour (7:30 - 7:40 am) at two gates. The counts between 7:20 - 7:30 am and 7:40 - 8:00 am were estimated by linear interpolation. The total estimated escapement for the 7:00 am - 8:00 am period was a sum of the actual counts and linear interpolated values as calculated by a Lotus Spreadsheet developed by Bruce Barrett, Westward Regional Research Biologist (Appendix A.1).

To determine the amount of error in both methods, actual counts were taken from 7:00 - 8:00 am and summarized at five minute intervals at each gate and compared to results from the old and new method estimates.

RESULTS

A total of 38 and 13 actual counts for sockeye and chinook salmon were recorded (Tables 1 and 2) and summarized at 5 minute intervals during the first hour of the study (Table 3). The decrease during the first hour was linear for both sockeye and chinook salmon, but the slope of the line for chinook salmon was steeper than that for sockeye salmon (Table 3 and Figure 1). For sockeye salmon, 22.7% of the total hour count passed through the weir in the first 10 minutes and 20.6% in the next 10 minutes for a total of 43.3% in the first 20 minutes. While for chinook salmon, 33.1% of the total hour count passed through the weir in the first 10 minutes and 25.9% in the next 10 minutes for a total of 59.0% in the first 20 minutes. On a seasonal basis, the first hour counts represented 15% of the total sockeye (Figure 2) and 23% of the total chinook salmon escapement (Figure 3) counted for the entire day.

Actual counts (38) that were compared to estimates for each method by day for sockeye salmon, showed that the old method's estimates contained a more continuous positive bias (average 36.3%, range 600% to - 100%) than the new method (average -1.9%, range .1% to 54.5%) (Table 4 and Figure 4). However, both methods exhibited a positive bias at low counts, but more extremely so for the old method where the percent error was large and variable at sample counts less than 1000 but leveled off with greater sample sizes (Figure 5). Only in six of the 38 instances was the old method closer to actual values than the new method. Four of the six coincided with a flooding tide.

A total of 13 full hour escapement counts that were compared to escapement estimates generated for each method by day for chinook salmon showed that the estimates derived by the old method contained a continuous positive bias (average 98.9%, range 380% to 15.4%) whereas the estimate obtained by the new method were both positive and negative with the overall being slightly positive (0.6%, range 0.0% to 150%) (Table 5 and Figure 6).

The overall difference for sockeye salmon between actual counts and estimates by the two methodologies was expanded first to both gates during the sampling period and then to the entire season. An adjustment was made for expansions made by the old method because the escapement declined throughout the first hour and counts were always made at one gate at a time. Since the second actual ten minute sample was on average less than the first ten minute count, the expansion for the old method was lessened by this amount (2.1%). The old method would overestimate the 1992 sockeye salmon escapement by 38,316 (5.0% error) while the new method would underestimate by 2,026 (-0.3% error) (Tables 6 and 7).

The overall difference for chinook salmon between actual counts and estimates by the two methodologies was first expanded to both gates then to the entire season. After the first hour, chinook salmon for both gates was totaled but not recorded by gate. Since chinook salmon were as likely to go through either gate (Table 8), sampled gate counts were doubled to estimate total counts for the two gates. Also, the second ten minute sample was lessened by 7.2% to account for the decreasing escapement rates between the first ten minute count and the second. The old method would overestimate the 1992 chinook escapement by 1,502 (41.0% error) while the new method would overestimate by 5 (0.1% error)(Tables 7 and 9).

CONCLUSION

The new method of counting 30 minutes in the first hour, interpolating between counted points, and averaging at each gate produced much less error than the old method of multiplying the 10 minute counts by six (Tables 6-8). The new method appears to perform adequately, and its continued use is highly recommended. The percent error that apparently existed with the old method for chinook salmon is high considering minimum escapement values of approximately 1,800 fish.

Table 1. Sockeye salmon escapement counts (n=38) by sample date at gates 1 and 2, recorded at 5 minute intervals, during the 7:00 - 8:00 am period, Chignik River weir, 1992.

	Gate 1																				
Date	6/16	6/18	6/19	6/20	6/21	6/22	6/23	6/24	6/25	6/26	6/28	6/29	6/30	7/1	7/2	7/3	7/5	7/13	7/14	7/15	7/16
Time																					
7:05	212	12	10	6	110	205	253	445	464	10	4	8	5	13	3	7	3	46	115	106	160
7:10	226	6	1	5	130	208	322	457	372	9	0	3	2	10	1	3	1	88	110	64	151
7:15	181	1	2	1	125	180	253	425	323	0	1	0	1	1	0	14	0	92	89	53	124
7:20	176	3	7	2	125	258	244	412	316	1	0	1	1	6	1	10	0	77	19	50	104
7:25	130	0	0	0	110	245	344	397	304	3	0	2	6	2	0	3	0	69	18	17	141
7:30	115	0	0	2	161	239	330	260	356	0	1	3	4	0	1	6	0	71	10	30	72
7:35	120	0	2	0	160	173	265	330	255	1	1	1	3	4	3	0	0	55	28	20	62
7:40	120	0	0	2	110	156	216	319	253	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	45	16	27	121
7:45	95	0	0	0	68	166	339	345	202	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	19	16	18	115
7:50	140	1	0	0	60	172	312	328	204	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	0	31	24	23	51
7:55	134	0	0	0	136	164	337	323	180	1	0	1	1	0	0	9	0	2	14	13	67
8:00	92	0	1	3	64	167	239	352	163	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	23	5	86
Total	1,741	23	23	21	1,359	2,333	3,454	4,393	3,392	27	8	21	24	38	11	60	5	597	482	426	1,254

3

Gate 1							Gate 2											
Date	7/17	7/18	7/19	7/20	7/21	7/22	7/24	7/25	7/26	7/27	7/28	7/29	7/30	7/31	8/1	8/2	8/3	Total
<u>Time</u>																		
7:05	65	227	150	10	85	36	238	176	173	144	103	117	132	21	1	12	19	3,906
7:10	113	149	142	60	134	99	335	116	117	127	57	139	162	15	2	7	24	3,967
7:15	52	165	99	24	84	105	228	223	97	232	78	172	124	9	8	10	16	3,592
7:20	139	159	81	11	49	101	407	182	92	144	67	165	53	34	10	11	31	3,549
7:25	194	128	113	14	74	69	224	184	107	101	60	39	123	25	9	9	9	3,273
7:30	130	157	71	9	69	68	240	89	66	119	68	148	125	19	8	16	8	3,071
7:35	75	149	85	9	24	56	137	98	25	82	27	67	57	11	4	7	12	2,408
7:40	92	129	79	5	17	53	130	136	49	67	25	12	83	4	7	12	6	2,295
7:45	130	98	38	1	34	38	107	132	39	43	25	26	43	11	15	3	8	2,176
7:50	50	243	61	2	42	43	125	71	26	34	5	3	8	7	8	11	9	2,102
7:55	76	120	160	4	24	38	123	154	63	61	16	16	10	3	10	18	6	2,284
8:00	146	146	75	2	36	31	97	157	38	39	1	3	25	9	14	8	6	2,035
Total	1,262	1,870	1,154	151	672	737	2,391	1,718	892	1,193	532	907	945	168	96	124	154	34,658

Table 2. Chinook salmon escapement counts (n=13) by sample date at gates 1 and 2, recorded at 5 minute intervals, during the 7:00 - 8:00 am period, Chignik River weir, 1992.

Date	Gates 1 and 2													Total
	7/18	7/19	7/22	7/21	7/24	7/26	7/27	7/28	7/29	7/30	7/31	8/1	8/3	
<u>Time</u>														
7:05	3	0	1	4	7	2	1	2	2	3	3	1	2	31
7:10	4	2	1	3	3	3	5	1	4	1	1	1	0	29
7:15	3	1	2	1	3	6	5	1	1	0	3	0	1	27
7:20	3	0	1	0	4	1	5	1	3	0	1	1	0	20
7:25	3	0	0	1	6	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	17
7:30	4	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	15
7:35	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
7:40	0	1	0	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
7:45	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	10
7:50	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
7:55	1	0	0	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
8:00	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Total	24	4	5	12	44	26	21	7	15	5	9	4	5	181

Table 3. Total sockeye and chinook salmon escapement counts at gates 1 and 2, recorded at 5 minute intervals, during the 7:00 -8:00 am period where n=38 for sockeye and n=13 for chinook, Chignik River weir, 1992.

Time Intervals	Sockeye						Chinook	
	Gate 1		Gate 2		Total Counts 1 & 2		Actual Count	Percent Of Total Count
	Actual Count	Percent Of Total Count	Actual Count	Percent Of Total Count	Actual Count	Percent Of Total Count		
7:05	2,770	10.8	1,136	12.5	3,906	11.3	31	17.1
7:10	2,866	11.2	1,101	12.1	3,967	11.4	29	16.0
7:15	2,395	9.4	1,197	13.1	3,592	10.4	27	14.9
7:20	2,353	9.2	1,196	13.1	3,549	10.2	20	11.0
7:25	2,383	9.3	890	9.8	3,273	9.4	17	9.4
7:30	2,165	8.5	906	9.9	3,071	8.9	15	8.3
7:35	1,881	7.4	527	5.8	2,408	6.9	6	3.3
7:40	1,764	6.9	531	5.8	2,295	6.6	8	4.4
7:45	1,724	6.8	452	5.0	2,176	6.3	10	5.5
7:50	1,795	7.0	307	3.4	2,102	6.1	7	3.9
7:55	1,804	7.1	480	5.3	2,284	6.6	8	4.4
8:00	1,638	6.4	397	4.4	2,035	5.9	3	1.7
Total	25,538		9,120		34,658	100.0	181	100.0

Table 4. Comparison of results using different expansion methods for sockeye salmon at Chignik River weir, 1992.

		-----Methods-----		Old Method	New Method	
		Old	New	Difference	Difference	
Date	Actual	6 Times 10 Min. Count	Linear Rate	from Actual (Percent)	from Actual (Percent)	
Gate 1	6/16	1,741	2,628	1,759	50.9	1.0
	6/18	23	108	29	369.6	26.1
	6/19	23	66	29	187.0	26.1
	6/20	21	66	24	214.3	14.3
	6/21	1,359	1,440	1,043	6.0	-23.3
	6/22	2,333	2,478	2,223	6.2	-4.7
	6/23	3,454	3,450	3,044	-0.1	-11.9
	6/24	4,393	5,412	4,330	23.2	-1.4
	6/25	3,392	5,016	3,330	47.9	-1.8
	6/26	27	114	30	322.2	11.1
	6/28	8	24	11	200.0	37.5
	6/29	21	66	28	214.3	33.3
	6/30	24	42	34	75.0	41.7
	7/1	38	138	46	263.2	21.1
	7/2	11	24	17	118.2	54.5
	7/3	60	60	53	0.0	-11.7
	7/5	5	24	7	380.0	40.0
	7/13	597	804	624	34.7	4.5
	7/14	482	1,350	555	180.1	15.1
	7/15	426	1,020	569	139.4	33.6
	7/16	1,254	1,866	1,265	48.8	0.9
	7/17	1,262	1,068	1,011	-15.4	-19.9
	7/18	1,870	2,256	1,921	20.6	2.7
	7/19	1,154	1,752	1,197	51.8	3.7
	7/20	151	420	177	178.1	17.2
	7/21	672	1,314	568	95.5	-15.5
	7/22	737	810	895	9.9	21.4
Gate 2	7/24	2,391	3,438	2,393	43.8	0.1
	7/25	1,718	1,752	1,717	2.0	-0.1
	7/26	892	1,740	841	95.1	-5.7
	7/27	1,193	1,626	1,246	36.3	4.4
	7/28	532	960	533	80.5	0.2
	7/29	907	1,536	965	69.3	6.4
	7/30	945	1,764	984	86.7	4.1
	7/31	168	216	140	28.6	-16.7
	8/1	96	18	83	-81.3	-13.5
	8/2	124	114	109	-8.1	-12.1
	8/3	154	258	171	67.5	11.0
	Both Gates	34,658	47,238	34,001	36.3	-1.9
	Gate 1	26,165	33,816	24,819	29.2	-5.1
Gate 2	9,120	13,422	9,182	47.2	0.7	

Table 5. Comparison of results using different expansion methods for chinook salmon at the Chignik River weir, 1992.

Date	Actual	----Methods----		Old Method	New Method
		Old 6 Times 10 Min. Count	New Linear Rate	Difference From Actual (Percent)	Difference From Actual (Percent)
7/18	24	42	20	75.0	-16.7
7/19	4	12	10	200.0	150.0
7/22	5	12	4	140.0	-20.0
7/21	12	42	13	250.0	8.3
7/24	44	60	38	36.4	-13.6
7/26	26	30	27	15.4	3.8
7/27	21	36	22	71.4	4.8
7/28	7	18	9	157.1	28.6
7/29	15	36	12	140.0	-20.0
7/30	5	24	5	380.0	0.0
7/31	9	24	12	166.7	33.3
8/1	4	12	6	200.0	50.0
8/3	5	12	4	140.0	-20.0
	181	360	182	98.9	0.6

Table 6. Comparison of two methods that estimate actual counts of sockeye salmon within the first hour from counting samples, and expansion of the error associated with each method from the sample to the entire season.

Methodology	#Sockeye
<u>Old Method</u>	
<u>Expansion From The Sampled Gate To The Unsampled For Each Sample Day (n=38)</u>	
(Old Method - Actual) (n= 38 Samples)	12,580
Estimated Counts For One Gate on days Sampled	248,629
Estimated Count For Both Gates On Days Sampled	593,403
Expansion Proportion: 12,580 248,629	
	$\frac{\quad}{\quad} = \frac{\quad}{\quad}$
	$\quad \times \quad = 593,403$
Estimated Total Error On Days Sampled	$x = 30,025$
<u>Adjustment For Second 10 Min Expansion</u>	
Percent Second 10 min less than First: 2.1%	
30,025 - 12,580 = 17,445	
17,445 * 2.1% = 366	
Adjustment: 17,445 - 368 = 17,079	
17,079 + 12,580 = 29,659	
<u>Expansion From The Sampled Days To The Unsampled Days</u>	
Estimated Total Sockeye Escapement	766,603
Estimated Counts For Both Gates On Days Sampled	593,403
Total Difference on Sampled Days	29,659
Expansion Proportion: 29,659 593,403	
	$\frac{\quad}{\quad} = \frac{\quad}{\quad}$
	$\quad \times \quad = 766,603$
Estimated Total Error For Season	$x = 38,316$
<u>New Method</u>	
<u>Expansion From The Sampled Gate To The Unsampled For Each Sample Day (n=38)</u>	
(New Method - Actual) (n=38 Samples)	-657
Estimated Counts For One Gate on day Sampled	248,629
Estimated Count For Both Gates On Day Sampled	593,403
Expansion Proportion: -657 248,629	
	$\frac{\quad}{\quad} = \frac{\quad}{\quad}$
	$\quad \times \quad = 593,403$
Estimated Total Error On Days Sampled	$x = -1,568$

-Continued-

Table 6. (page 2 of 2)

Methodology	#Sockeye
<u>Expansion From The Sampled Days To The Unsampled Days</u>	
Estimated Total Sockeye Escapement	766,603
Estimated Counts For Both Gates On Days Sampled	593,403
Total Difference on Sampled Days	-1,568
Expansion Proportion:	$\frac{-1,568}{x} = \frac{593,403}{766,603}$
Estimated Total Error For Season	$x = -2,026$

Table 7. Comparison of the differences from actual and percent error^a for two escapement estimates for the entire season for chinook and sockeye salmon, 1992.

Method	Chinook	%Error	Sockeye	%Error
Old	1,502	41.0	38,316	5.0
New	5	0.1	-2,026	-0.3

^a Percent error:

Old Method = Old Method Error / Estimated Actual Escapement

New Method = New Method Error / Estimated Actual Escapement

Where Estimated Actual Escapement = New Method Escapement +
Estimated Error Of New Method Estimate.

Table 8. Actual counts for chinook salmon at the gate sampled and total escapement for both gates within the first hour.

Date	Sampled Gate Actual Count	Total Count Both Gates
7/18	24	78
7/19	4	8
7/22	5	21
7/21	12	30
7/24	44	76
7/26	26	52
7/27	21	25
7/28	7	13
7/29	15	34
7/30	5	27
7/31	9	18
8/01	4	8
8/03	5	6
Total	181	396
Percent Sampled Each Gate:	181/396 = 46%	

Table 9. Comparison of two methods that estimate actual counts of chinook and sockeye salmon within the first hour from counting samples, and expansion of the error associated with each method from the sample to the entire season.

Methodology	#Chinook
<u>Old Method</u>	
<u>Expansion From The Sampled Gate To The Unsampled For Each Sample Day (n=13)</u>	
Old Method - Actual (n=13)	179
Probability king using a particular gate	0.50
Total count of Kings both gates (2*179)	358
Count Estimate For Both Gates On Days Sampled	874
Count Estimate For Both Gates Entire Season	3,806
Expansion Proportion:	$\frac{358}{x} = \frac{874}{3,806}$
Estimated Total Error For Season:	x = 1,559
<u>Adjustment For Second 10 Min Expansion:</u>	
Probability a king uses gate1 or gate2:	0.5
Percent Second 10 min less than First:	7.2
Second Gate Escapement:	1,559 * 0.5 = 779
Adjustment equals:	779 * .072 = 56
	779 - 56 = 723
Estimated Total Error For Season:	779 + 723 = 1,502
<u>New Method</u>	
Gate #1	
Old Method Minus Actual	1
Count Estimate For Both Gates On Days Sampled	874
Count Estimate For Both Gates Entire Season	3,806
	$\frac{1}{x} = \frac{874}{3,806}$
Estimated Total Error For Season:	x = 5

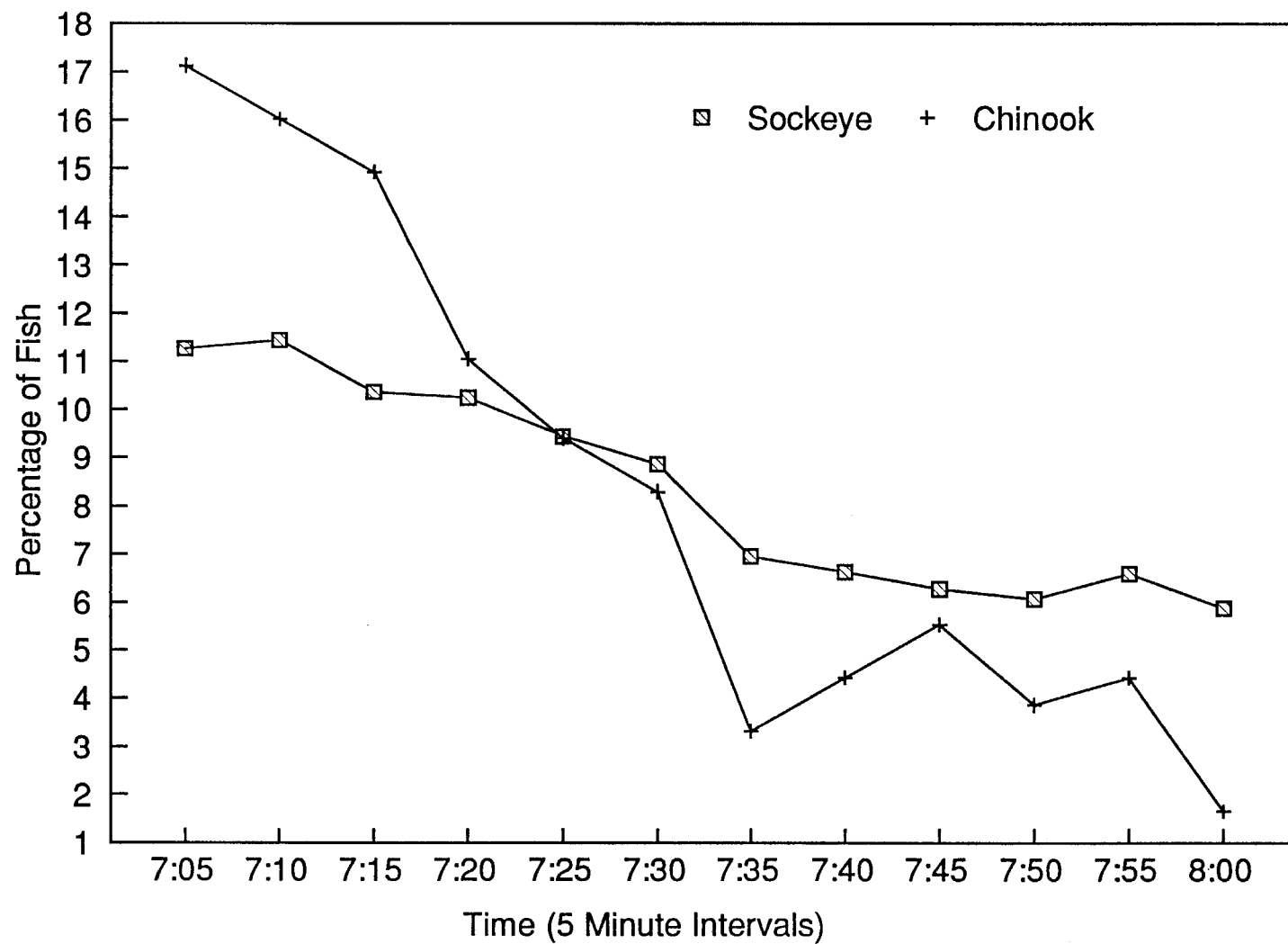


Figure 1. Percentage of actual escapement per time interval for chinook and sockeye salmon counted at the Chignik River weir, 1992.

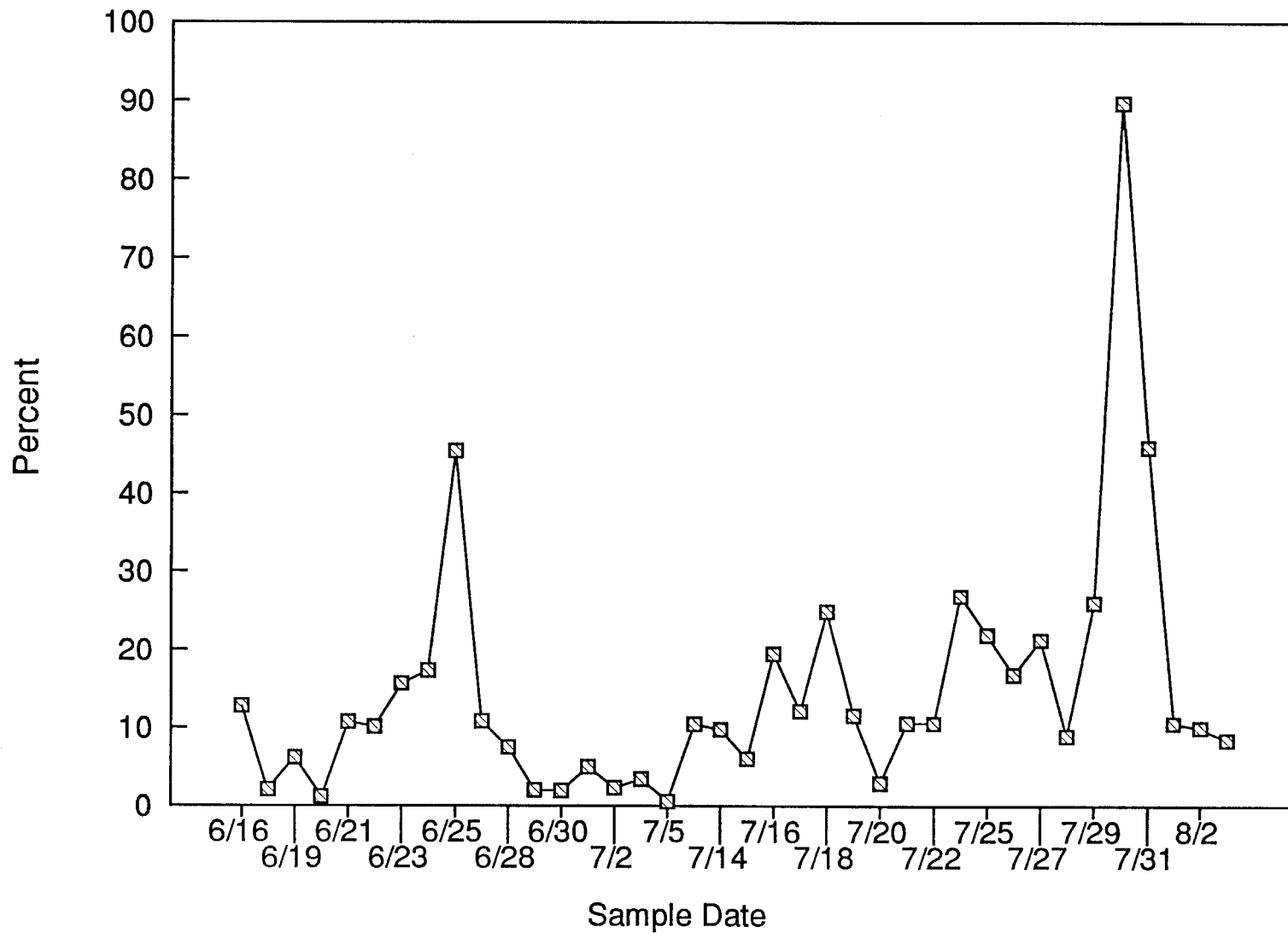


Figure 2. Percentage of the total daily sockeye salmon escapement counted in the first hour through the Chignik River weir, 1992.

Figure 3. Percentage of the total daily chinook salmon escapement counted in the first hour through the Chignik River weir, 1992.

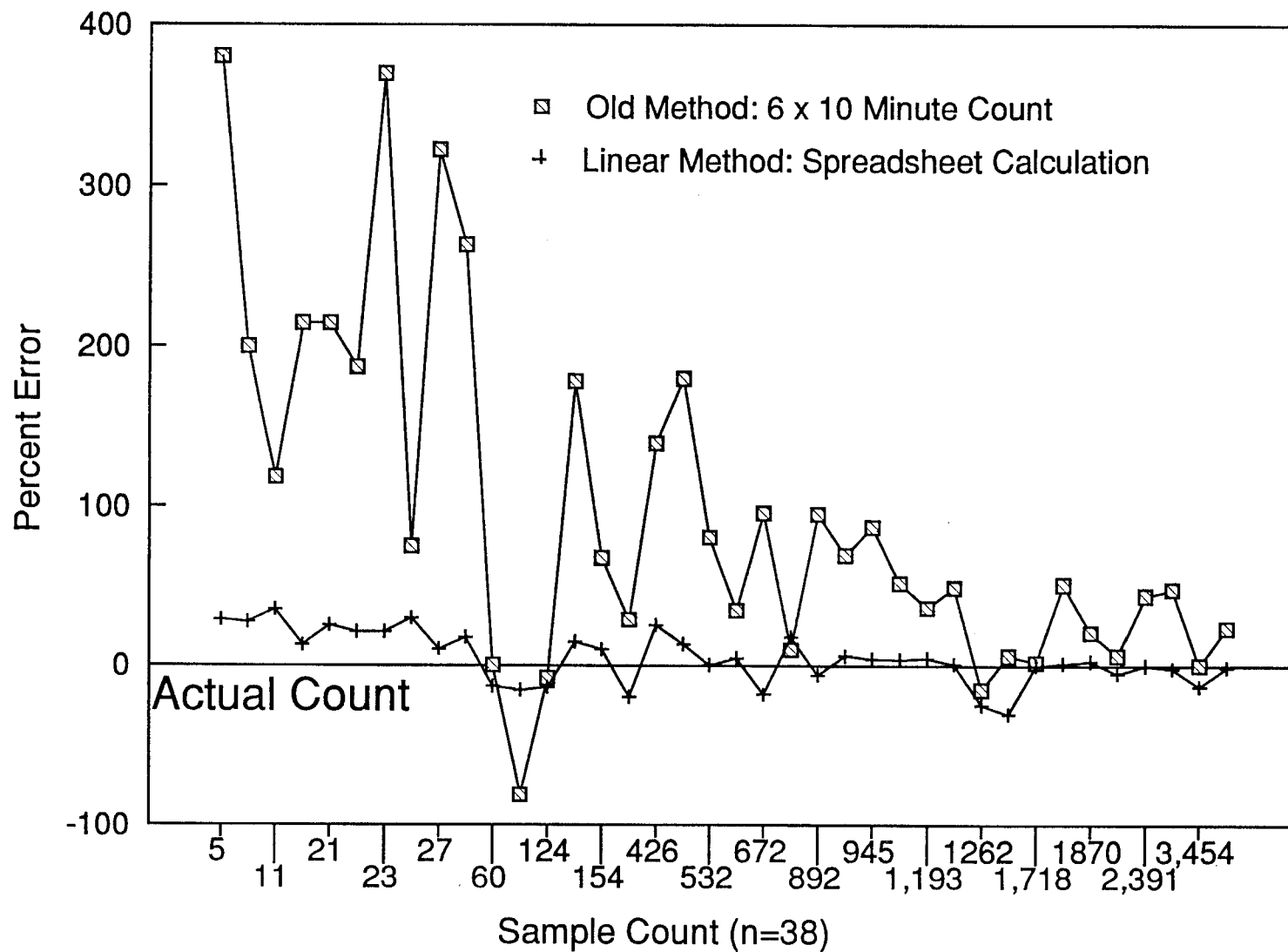


Figure 4. Comparison of the percent error associated with two methods of estimating sockeye salmon escapement (7:00 - 8:00 am) at the Chignik River weir, 1992.

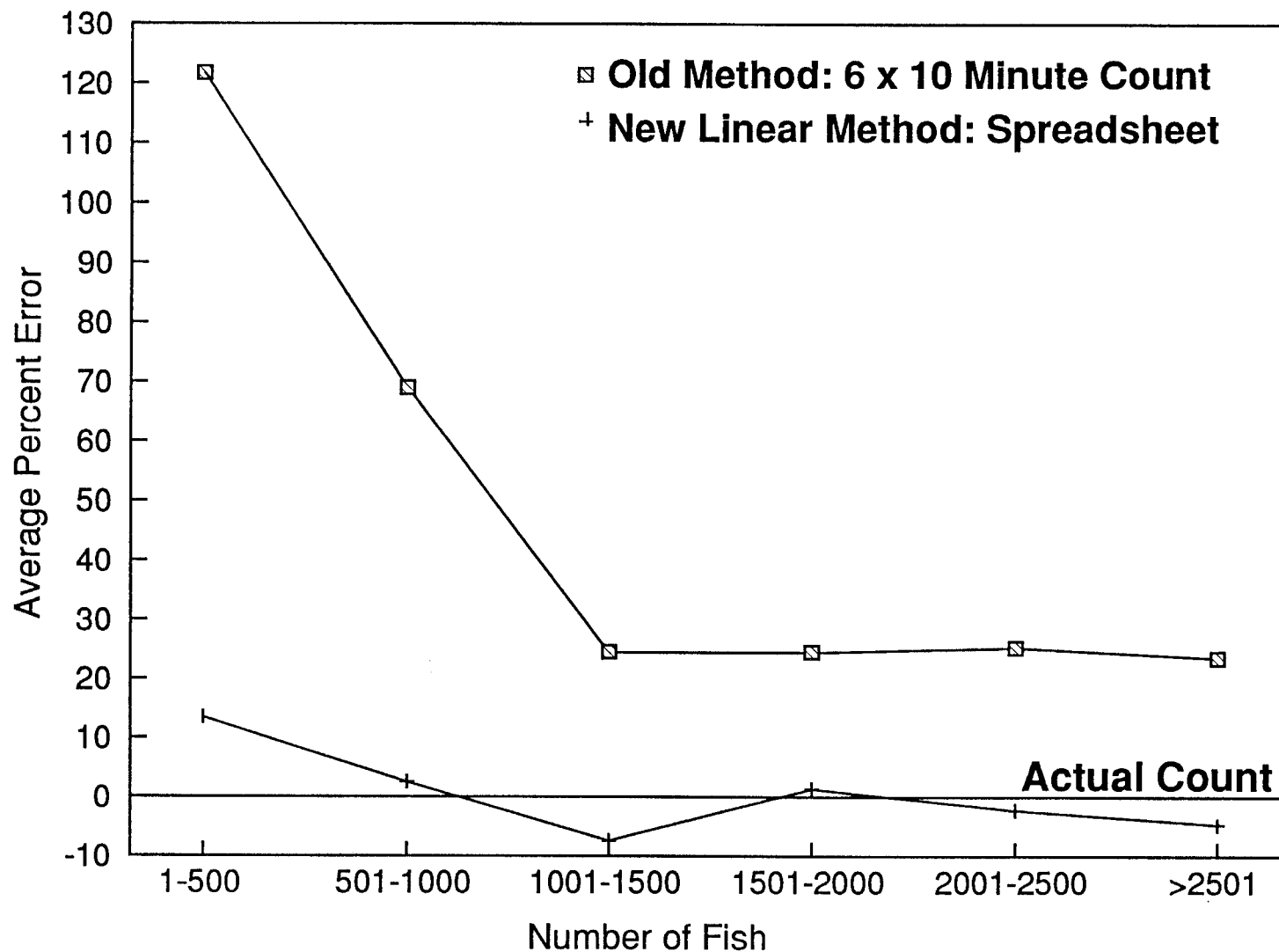


Figure 5. Comparison of average percent error for each estimation method grouped by number of sockeye salmon at the Chignik River weir, 1992.

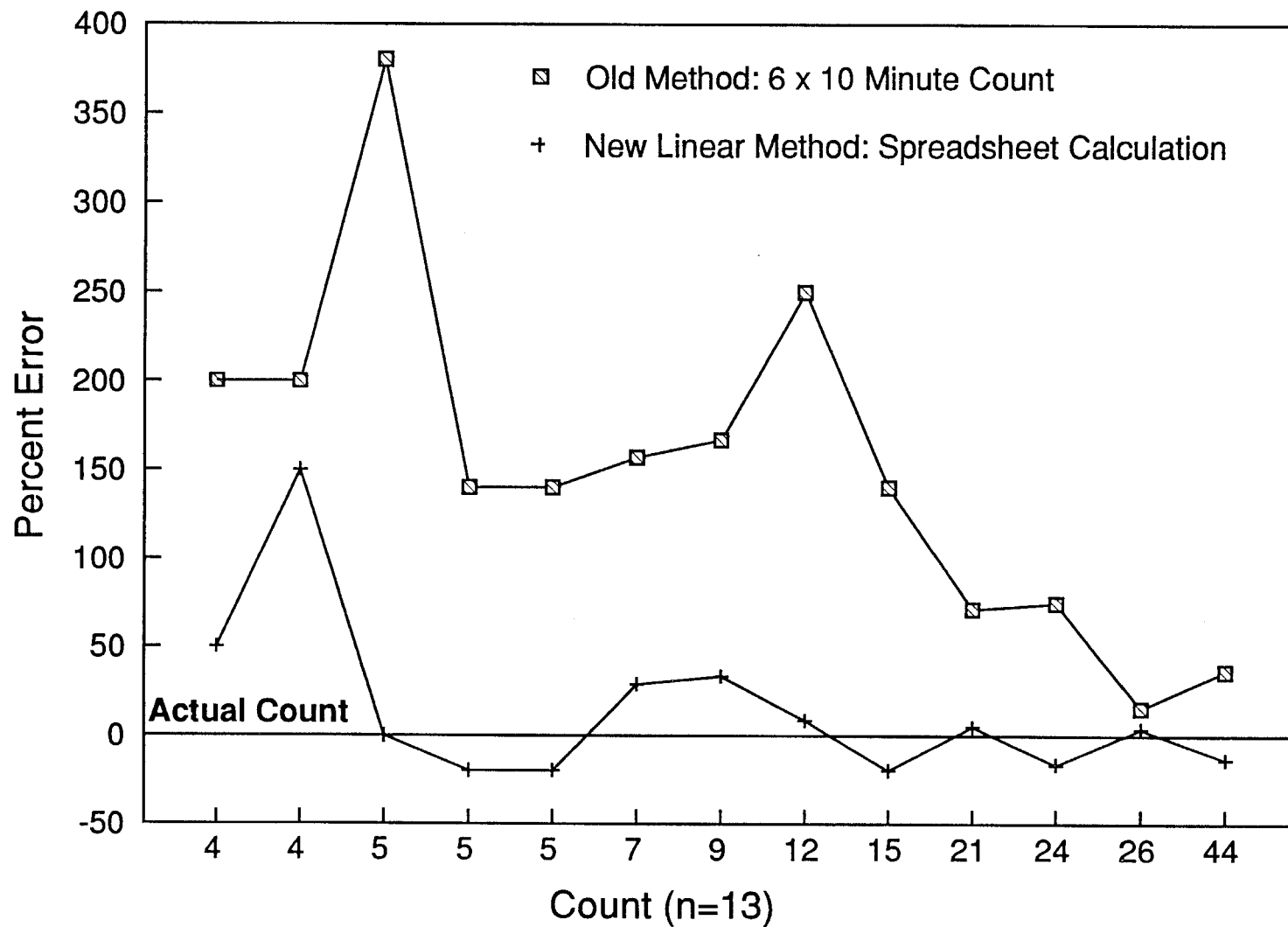


Figure 6. Comparison of the percent error associated with two methods of estimating chinook salmon escapement (7:00 - 8:00 am) at the Chignik River weir, 1992.

APPENDIX

Appendix A.1. Timed sockeye salmon counts by gate and estimated total escapement by hour and gate, Chignik River weir, 1992.

Reference Time	GATE 1				GATE 2				TOTAL CHIGNIK WEIR		
	Hour	COUNT Period	Count	Est. Total Hour	Hour	Count Period	Count	Est. Total Hour	Hour	Est. Total Hour	Daily Cum.
7am	1	0-20 30-40		0	1	0-20 30-40		0	1	0	0
8am	2	0-10		0	2	10-20		0	2	0	0
9am	3	0-10		0	3	10-20		0	3	0	0
10am	4	0-10		0	4	10-20		0	4	0	0
11am	5	0-10		0	5	10-20		0	5	0	0
noon	6	0-10		0	6	10-20		0	6	0	0
1pm	7	0-10		0	7	10-20		0	7	0	0
2pm	8	0-10		0	8	10-20		0	8	0	0
3pm	9	0-10		0	9	10-20		0	9	0	0
4pm	10	0-10		0	10	10-20		0	10	0	0
5pm	11	0-10		0	11	10-20		0	11	0	0
6pm	12	0-10		0	12	10-20		0	12	0	0
7pm	13	0-10		0	13	10-20		0	13	0	0
8pm	14	0-10		0	14	10-20		0	14	0	0
9pm	15	0-10		0	15	10-20		0	15	0	0

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